

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 9-10 with the following amended paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ~~EXEMPLARY~~

PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph on page 14, line 20 through page 15, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present ~~invention~~ invention, to extract the watermark from the two halftone images A_1 and A_2 , the binary operator \oplus may be applied to each pair of pixels $(A_1(i,j), A_2(i,j))$ resulting in the extracted watermark image W . In other words, the (i,j) -th pixel of W is given by $W(i,j) = A_1(i,j) \oplus A_2(i,j)$.